

Window to the World

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Ruth Hemphill, Editor

Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically
Handicapped

403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville TN 37243

Phone: (615) 741-3915 or (800) 342-3308

Fax: (615) 532-8856

E-mail: tlbph.tsla@tn.gov

Welcome Back to Window to the World!

We know it's been a really long time since you've received an issue of our newsletter, but here one finally is! We plan to put the newsletter out on a quarterly basis in the future.

Here at the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (TLBPH), we have been undergoing a staff reorganization. In January, Ed Byrne, assistant director of the TLBPH and long-time editor of Window to the World, left the TLBPH to work as a librarian in the public services section of the Tennessee State Library & Archives (TSLA). He's assisting TSLA's patrons with genealogical and historical Tennessee research. We do still see him frequently and wish him well in this new chapter in his life.

In February, Ruth Hemphill became the TLBPH's very first outreach librarian. In this role, she will be helping to "spread the word" about

TLBPH services to the more than 75,000 eligible Tennesseans who do not use the service. In addition, she will be assisting the new regional librarian with statistical reporting, and she is the new editor of Window to the World.

The new regional librarian is Maria Sochor. Maria comes to the TLBPH from TSLA's planning & development section, where she was the coordinator of Tennessee's statewide integrated library system. A native of New England, Maria and her husband, Jeff, have two small sons, Henry and Otis.

Ginger Tessier, a reader advisor, decided her family needed her to stay permanently in New Hampshire, so she will not be returning to us. Other staff members have been attempting to keep her patrons stocked with books and magazines until her replacement started.

Allison Griffey, another reader advisor, will also be transferring to TSLA'S public services section as an archival assistant. Allison plans to attain her master's degree in library science in August. She hopes her diversity in experience will assist her in obtaining a professional position once she has completed her degree.

On April 13, two new reader advisors started working in the TLBPH. Heather Fach is the new reader advisor for patrons whose last names start with A-D, replacing Ginger. Cathy Bale is the new reader advisor for patrons whose last names start with E-K, replacing Allison.

Heather enjoys a wide variety of books. When I asked about her favorite authors, the first two she mentioned were Robert McCammon and Dean Koontz, so she likes scarier books than I do, but she also listed Dave Barry, a humorist I really enjoy. She also enjoys all sports but loves

baseball, football, and hockey. Heather grew up all over the world, including such exciting places as Hawaii and Germany, as her parents were employed by the Department of Defense. She's lived in Nashville since 1998. Prior to coming to work at TLBPH, she worked for Nashville Public Library. Heather also loves animals and lives with a former somewhat feral cat, Kruger, who she rescued from a life out-of-doors.

Cathy has been married to her "best bud," Elden, for 29 years. They are "parents" of an 8-year-old miniature schnauzer, who she says is a genius. He must be, because his name is Einstein! She attended North Georgia College, and worked in passenger service in the airline industry for 25 years. Cathy spent her early childhood in New Jersey, but says she basically grew up in Georgia. An avid reader of literary fiction, she's currently enjoying the novels of Nashville's best-selling author and bookstore owner Ann Patchett. Cathy also loves traveling (must be the influence of the airline industry!) and most recently visited Peru, where she explored the 15th Century Inca site of Machu Picchu.

Currency Reader Now Available

Know people who have trouble identifying the different pieces of U.S. currency because they cannot see well enough to do so?

We all know people who fold their \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills (those lucky people who have them) in special ways so they can identify them. However, before the bills are folded, if a person cannot see the bills, someone has to tell them which bills they have. Most people are honest and won't give bad change, but there are always those few who aren't, which can result in confusion and embarrassment for a blind person.

The U.S. Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP) is making a free digital currency reader available to people who cannot identify paper currency. The iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier is a small device that can be attached to a key chain. The iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier will announce which bill is inserted, or it can be set to buzz or vibrate in different rhythms, so others cannot identify what bills are inserted into the reader.

The iBill® Identifier comes with braille and large print instructions, as well as audio instructions recorded on a CD. It also comes with a AAA battery, which users must replace at their own expense. If the bill reader should malfunction, it can be returned to the BEP for a replacement. However, if the currency reader is lost or broken, the user must purchase a replacement.

To obtain an application for the currency reader, go to BEP's website at <http://www.moneyfactory.gov/uscurrencyreaderpgm.html> or call the bureau at (844) 815-9388, toll-free. Both English and Spanish applications are available, but you must mail your application to BEP and be sure to put postage on the envelope. If you are receiving books from TLBPH, you may mark "Yes" on the application after the statement "Applicant is currently a registered patron of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress," and no further certification is needed—but be aware the BEP will verify that you are registered with us!

If you have a mobile device, BEP has developed apps for both the iOS and Android operating platforms. The EyeNote® App is built for the Apple iOS platform and the IDEAL® Currency Identifier operates on the Android platform. The EyeNote® App allows users to scan Federal

Reserve notes and communicates back to the user. It is a free download on the Apple App Store. The IDEAL® Currency Identifier is available as a free download on Google Play.

Toll-Free Number Now Accessible Nationwide!

For many years, if you wanted to call the TLBPH's toll-free number, you needed to be calling from a Tennessee area code, whether from a landline or cell phone. However, with many people retaining the cell phones from other states as their primary telephones, (800) 342-3308 may now be called from any U.S. area code. This means you can still call in book orders to TLBPH, even when you are on vacation in Hawaii! No excuses for getting bored on vacation, but keep in mind that if you want us to send books to you via "free matter" mail, you will need to provide us with your alternate address at your vacation site, and allow time for "free matter" mail delivery.

Upcoming State Holidays (TLBPH will be closed)

Independence Day	Friday, July 3, 2015
Labor Day	Monday, September 7, 2015

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